appropriate decison within a period of four weeks. The Court had adjourned the hearing till 16th January, 2006. As the matter for recoupment of the Seamen's Provident Fund is still under consideration, the Government have sought the extension of time from the Hon'ble Court upto 11th June, 2006. Although the Government had not given any commitment for one time payment for recoupment of Seamen's Provident Fund, Government is considering ways to find a suitable solution.

Development of ports in Orissa

2803. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Centrally sponsored scheme for promotion of coastal shipping;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to develop minor ports to take over the load of container traffic of major ports; and

(d) if so, the details of minor ports that are proposed to be developed along Orissa coast for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The proposal is at the preliminary stage of discussion and no decision has been taken to set up a centrally sponsored scheme in this regard.

(c) and (d) Ports other than major ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments in whom the responsibility for development of these ports vests. Responsibility for development of ports other than major ports along the Orissa coast, therefore, vests in the Government of Orissa.

International Container Trans-Shipment Terminal

2804. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chinese consortium proposes to develop the international container trans-shipment terminal at Vizhinjam in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the time-frame within which it would become functional;

(d) whether such kind of terminal is also proposed to be developed on the Orissa coast to improve the economy of this backward region; and

(e) if so,the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Ports other than major ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments in whom the responsibility for development of these ports vests. Thus responsibility for development of Vizhinjam, a minor port, as international transhipment container terminal, vests with the State Government of Kerala. State Government of Kerala have informed that they intend to develop Vizhinjam as deep water container port through Public Private partnership mode with post construction license period of 30 years. The project would be implemented in three phases at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,423 crores.

The project is proposed to be taken up by Government of Kerala by following international competitive bidding. Consortium of following Chinese and Indian Companies emerged as the preferred bidder for implementation of the project:

(i) Kaidi Electric Power Company Limited, China (Lead Member).

(ii) China Harbour Engineering Company (Group) 2nd Engineering Institute, China.

(iii) Zoom Developer (Pvt.) Limited, Mumbai.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal at present.

Introduction of ferry service in Mumbai

†2805. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a ferry service in the sea

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.